

Stent

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

VIRUS LABORATORY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

February 5, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 5, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I was really very happy to receive your letter; first of all, because it lent substance to the rumors that our hopes of having you with us here in Berkeley are not just pipedreams and, secondly, because my particular wish of forming a local "interest group" with you do not appear to be completely one-sided from my part. I hope, furthermore, that you will include also my name, along with that of Roger and Mike, among the list of those on whom you can expect to rely when the need arises, not only in scientific but also in extracurricular matters.

I don't know how the administrative setup in Berkeley compares with that of other universities; it certainly is more complicated than that of Caltech, but no worse than that of Illinois, the only other two institutions with which I am familiar (except the Institut Pasteur, about whose administration the less said the better). I have never experienced any trouble whatsoever in cooperating with anybody in other departments; on the contrary, I have had a lot of help from people in departments as remote as Chemistry, Physics or Statistics. What is true, however, is that anybody who wants to isolate himself can do so very easily, so that cooperation is strictly a personal, and not administrative question. But Roger and Mike can certainly reassure you also that there will be no lack of mutual interest relations for you among people on the campus; on the contrary, there is more danger that you will be snowed under.

It should hardly be necessary for me to point out that I find the idea of a generalized microbial genetics course of the type you propose extremely exciting and that it would be an honor for me to teach it together with you and Ed Adelberg. Our present Bacterial Genetics course (numbered, strangely enough, also 107) is only a one-semester, two-hour-per-week affair, and I think that a course of the sort you mention could easily extend for two semesters, three times a week. There would be a little footwork necessary about the listing of the course, since, in general, courses do not seem to be interlisted between departments here. But this is a minor point and can, I am sure, be ironed out easily. Of course, I am speaking only for myself and not for Ed Adelberg, whom we better contact soon before going very far in our planning.

So, I can only tell you once more how very much we all hope that you will favor Berkeley by accepting its offer and how much, I in

STENT, G.S.

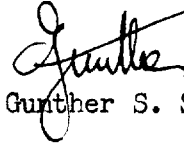
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particular, would like to cooperate and/or collaborate with you in future years. I am looking forward to seeing you again in April and both Inga and I send you and Esther our warmest regards.

Your

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gunther", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gunther S. Stent

GSS/ma